



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release # 053-2000

NYC CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED WITH RAPING FEMALE PRISONER
-Alleged Attack Occurred Early Friday In Rikers Island Employee Messhall-

Release Date -- MONDAY, JULY 3, 2000

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), and ROBERT T. JOHNSON, Bronx District Attorney, today announced the felony arrest of PABLO RODRIGUEZ, a City Department of Corrections (DOC) Officer, for allegedly raping, by forcible compulsion, a female prisoner in an employee mess-hall at the Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, the Rose M. Singer Center is the sole DOC Rikers Island jail for female detainees and female inmates sentenced to serve 1 year or less in jail. The jail's total capacity is approximately 1,700 female prisoners, although the jail's current prisoner population is approximately 1,300.

Commissioner Kuriansky and District Attorney Johnson said that the alleged incident occurred early Friday morning, while the 34-year-old victim was working in the "Blue Room," a dining room for supervisory personnel, at the jail's employee mess-hall. The victim worked as a "mess-hall worker," and her duties included serving meals to employees and cleaning the dining rooms. Correction Officer RODRIGUEZ was assigned to the mess-hall for the 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. "midnight" tour on the day of the incident.

RODRIGUEZ, 44, of Manhattan, was appointed a Correction Officer on September 14, 1995, and earns \$38,052 a year. RODRIGUEZ was charged with Rape in the First Degree, a Class B felony. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison. He was suspended without pay, pending the outcome of the case. RODRIGUEZ surrendered earlier today to DOI investigators at the DOC Inspector General's Office at 60 Hudson Street in lower Manhattan.

Commissioner Kuriansky and District Attorney Johnson expressed their sincere appreciation to DOC Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik and members of his staff, especially Warden Jacqueline Thomas-Andrews, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Michael Caruso, Assistant Commissioner and Inspector General for DOC, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Louis Marano, Supervising Investigator Migdalia Figueroa, and Confidential Investigators William Holland, Lorna Leopold, Lawrence McGugins, and Jason Pugh.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney David Birnbaum, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Elisa Koenderman, Chief, Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Bureau, is assigned to handle the matter.